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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY French Equatorial Africa

SUBJECT Medical Facilities

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1. Each governmental district, called a "department" in French Equatorial Africa, maintains a hospital. There is a hospital at Fort Archambault which has approximately 100 beds for natives and 20 beds for whites. The hospital has a maternity ward and operating facilities.
2. In 1952 there was considerable talk about setting up an x-ray laboratory, but [redacted] this has not yet been done.
3. The hospital is headed by a French doctor and there is another French doctor assisting him. Both of these doctors have to spend considerable time traveling through the area checking on the prevalence of sleeping sickness and other diseases.
4. All medical supplies for these district hospitals come from France by way of Brazzaville.
5. [redacted] has set up several dispensaries in the Fort Archambault area. All these dispensaries must be sanctioned by the government in Brazzaville. Although the local French doctor has no control over the establishment of dispensaries, he does exercise considerable control in the type of treatment which may be given in these dispensaries.
6. For example, a registered nurse who was running one of the dispensaries near Fort Archambault had been acting as midwife with the full approval of the local doctor. However, this doctor was transferred and the man who took his place refused to allow her to practice midwifery since she had no permit, even though she was a registered nurse and had not lost a patient.

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-2-

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7. Nearly all of the medical supplies [REDACTED] are sent from the US. Occasionally in an emergency it is possible to obtain supplies through the nearest French hospital, although again this is a matter for the French doctor to decide.
8. The Pasteur Institute in Brazzaville is doing extensive research on native diseases and maintains a large hospital. [REDACTED] the Pasteur Institute also maintains some administrative control over the district doctors.
9. The French doctors working in these "department" hospitals ordinarily serve a two year tour of duty and then return to France. The staff at the Pasteur Institute, however, does not suffer from such a rapid turnover of personnel.

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